

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 EUR-12

/063 W

-----030411 117380 /14

R 021452Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3648

UNCLAS SANTIGO 01660

ARA/LA/MRSD O'GRADY PASS AFL-CIO

E.O.1162:NA

TAGS: ELAB, CI

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO AFL-CIO/GOC/AFL-CIO EXCHANGE ON TRADE  
UNION RIGHTS

REF: STATE 033145

1. CHILEAN PRESS GINGERLY REPORTED THE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY AND CHILEAN LABOR MINISTER SERGIO FERNANDEZ, GIVING SOMEWHAT MORE SPACE TO FERNANDEZ BUT LEAVING THE FLAVOR OF MEANY.

2. PRESTIGIOUS "EL MERCURIO" IN A LEAD EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 28 PRAISED THE AFL-CIO'S HISTORY OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND STATED THAT IT WAS NOT REASONABLE TO LINK THE AFL-CIO WITH THE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILE. "MERCURIO" CONCLUDED THAT THE AFL-CIO MUST HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CHILE TO SEND SUCH A LETTER TO FERNANDEZ. IT THEREFORE FELL INTO A VACUUM, SINCE THE AFL-CIO DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE NATURE AND "TEMPORARY LIMITATIONS" OF THE SYSTEM APPLIED TO CHILEAN LABOR. "MER URIOZZ EMPLOYED THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO ADVANCE AGAIN ITS CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF IMPROVING THE ABILITY OF CHILE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN SERVICE TO FORM OPINION ABROAD OF THE COUNTRY'S REALITY.

3. "LA TERCERA" ON FEBRUARY 28 RAN A WASHINGTON DATEDLINE UPI REPORT OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. THE ARTICLE QUOTED LIBERALLY FROM FERNANDEZ' LETTER. IT JUXTAPOSED QUOTES OF THE AFL-CIO DEMAND FOR RESTORATION OF TRADE

UNION RIGHTS AND THE AEL-CIO CHARGE THAT THE GOC USE  
AN ANTI-COMMUNIST POSTURE TO DISGUISE REPRESSION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH POSITIONS PUT FORWARD BY FERNANDEZ.

4. LESS SOPHISTICATED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE THAN "MERCURIO",  
THE GOVERNMENT'S "EL CRONISTA" NEWSPAPER ATTEMPTED TO LINK MEANY  
WITH AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN SPONSORED BY COMMUNIST  
COUNTRIES AGAINST CHILE. THE MAIN CULPRIT  
WAS LAURA ALLENDE, SISTER OF THE FORMER CHILEAN PRESIDENT,  
WHO WAS TIED TO ANOTHER BETE NOIRE, ALI ALLANA THE HEAD OF  
THE UNHRC GROUP ON CHILE.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, LABOR UNIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, CI, US, AFL-CIO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009